K5N

DL88 - 6M SSB/CW/DIGITAL

Big Bend National Park, Texas, June 20 - 24, 2012

The 2012 K5N DXpedition to DL88

A Grid Bandits Event

The K5N Grid Activation Group wants to dedicate our efforts this year to Gene-W3ZZ who recently became an SK. Gene was a good friend and an old time VHFer of considerable accomplishments. RIP Gene.

This year, the K5N Activation Group consisted of Jason-N5NU, Russ-KB8U, Tim-KD5IKG, Bill-N5YA, and Marshall-K5QE. Our support staff consists of Joey-W5TFW, our QSL Manager, and JD-N0IRS of the Grid Bandits, who designed our logo (Page 1) and is our Webmaster. We stayed 3 1/2 days in super-rare grid DL88 at the very bottom of the Big Bend National Park.

This year, there are some folks that deserve a special "Thank You". To start, we have Fred Stefanik-N1DPM of Pure Power RF, who built a special 6M amplifier for us. Then there is Rollie and Roy-KC0YLL of Sun Born Energy who wound a custom 54V alternator for us. Finally, a very special Thank You goes to Bill-W5ATO of the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club. Bill made a "special supply run" on Friday to bring us lots of ice, drinks, and fruit.

DL88 is a really hard place to activate. It is hard to get there, as the roads in the Park are not very good. It is hard to stay there--the heat was 111° in the shade. Finally, it is hard to pack up and drive out. The road out is about 40 miles long and it took us 3 1/2 hours to drive out!! All around, DL88 is just a hard place to activate.

This year, we had very poor propagation for almost our entire stay. This was extremely frustrating considering all the time and effort that the team expended. We had an opening to the NE that lasted 2 hours on Friday and another opening to the NW that lasted about 1 1/2 hours on Saturday. We made about 360 contacts the entire trip. We just did not have the propagation that we should have had in late June. We will say this, we did take advantage of everything that was given us. We were on the air, working hard for QSOs. We did not have a single equipment failure or operator failure. Everything that the team did, worked perfectly. The propagation gods just were taking some time off while we were in DL88.

Confirming QSO With	Date			UTC	MHz	RPT	Mode	Grid
	Month	Day	Year					
N9BCA	June	20	2012	18:15	50	59	SSB	DL88

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